

REMARKS

The above amendments to the above-captioned application along with the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2004. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to give due reconsideration to this application, to indicate the allowability of the claims, and to pass this case to issue.

Status of the Claims

As outlined above, claims 11 – 19 currently stand in this application.

Additional Amendments

The specification and abstract are being amended to correct formal errors and to better disclose and describe the features of the present invention as claimed. Applicant hereby submits that no new matter is being introduced into the application through the submission of this response.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 15 - 17 and 19 under judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 - 10 of US Patent No. 6,597,191, which was the parent to this current application. Otherwise, the Examiner only objected to claims 12 – 14 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but considered them allowable over the prior art of record.

Attached hereto is a Terminal Disclaimer executed by the undersigned representative for the Applicants. As recognized by the Examiner in the Office Action, submission of this Terminal Disclaimer renders the double-patenting rejection moot. Consequently, the rejected claim 11, 15 – 17 and 19 are now allowable, and claims 12 – 14 are also allowable for the same reasons.

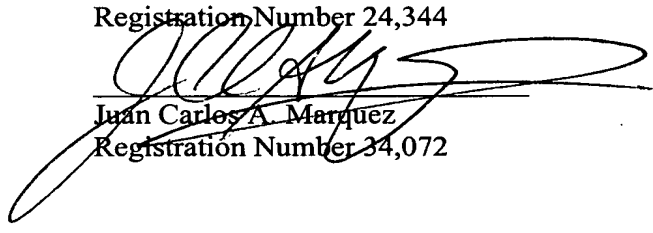
Conclusion

In view of all the above, Applicant respectfully submits that certain clear and distinct differences as discussed exist between the present invention as now claimed and the prior art as a whole. These differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as now claimed would not have been anticipated nor rendered obvious given the prior art. Rather, the present invention as a whole is distinguishable, and thereby allowable over the prior art.

Favorable reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding issues requiring discussion that would further the prosecution and allowance of the above-captioned application, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the address and phone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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